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④⑦ Applicant : **BIOSITE DIAGNOSTICS INC.**
11030 Roselle Street, Suite D
San Diego California 92121 (US)

⑦② Inventor : **Nowakowski, Mark Ronald**
3913 Kenosha Avenue
San Diego, California 92117 (US)
 Inventor : **Buechler, Kenneth Francis**
12523 Manifesto Place
San Diego, California 92130 (US)
 Inventor : **Valkirs, Gunars Edward**
2893 Paseo Del Sol
Escondido, California 92025 (US)
 Inventor : **Anderson, Richard Ray**
634 Hollyridge Drive
Encinitas, California 92024 (US)

⑦④ Representative : **Sexton, Jane Helen et al**
J.A. Kemp & Co. 14 South Square Gray's Inn
London WC1R 5LX (GB)

⑤④ **Device for ligand-receptor methods.**

⑤⑦ Devices for use in either competitive or non-competitive ligand-receptor assays, having a microporous member in contact with a non-absorbent textured surface, where the surface texturing is such that a capillary network is formed when in contact with the microporous member. More particularly, these devices comprise :

a porous member having an upper and a lower surface, being positioned in the device such that said sample may be applied to said upper surface ; and

a non-absorbent member having a textured surface with channels capable of forming a network of capillary channels when placed in communication beneath or around said porous member, said capillary network being substantially parallel to the lower surface of said porous member ;

whereby the sample, alone or in combination with other fluids, when applied to said upper surface is drawn through said porous member to said capillary network formed between said porous member and said non-absorbent member when substantially all the void volume of said porous member is filled with said sample and/or fluids and when contact is made between said porous member and said non-absorbent member. These devices are suitable for use in ligand-receptor assays which are performed using either immunochromatographic methods or in those which are performed using flow-through methods.



FIG. 6

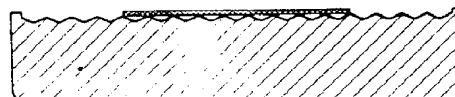


FIG. 7



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 91 30 2003

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
D,X	EP-A-0 239 174 (PB DIAGNOSTIC SYSTEMS, INC) * page 3, line 33 - line 37 * * page 4, line 47 - line 50; figures 1-3 *	1,2,5-7	G01N33/558 G01N33/543 //G01N33/58
Y	---	3,4,9-11	G01N33/74 G01N33/94
Y	EP-A-0 014 797 (EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY) * figures 1-3 *	3,4	G01N33/52
A	---	1,2	
D	& US-A-4 233 029		
Y	WO-A-8 202 601 (AMERICAN HOSPITAL SUPPLY CORPORATION) * page 3, line 29 - page 4, line 15 * * page 7, line 3 - line 11 *	9-11	
A	---	1,2,5-7	
A	EP-A-0 348 006 (PB DIAGNOSTIC SYSTEMS INC) * page 2, line 43 - page 3, line 30; figure 1 *	1-7	
A	EP-A-0 276 152 (SYNBIOTICS CORPORATION) * abstract; figure 2 *	1-4	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			G01N
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 27 MAY 1992	Examiner CEDER, Ove
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		I : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

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